

Amendments to the specification

Please amend paragraph 24 as follows:

[0024] A representative hinge assembly 30 is a four-bar hinge assembly shown in Figures 2, 3, 4, and 6-8. Such a hinge assembly includes a track 32 that is affixed to the frame and a vent bar 34 that is affixed to the sash 10. However, it is understood the vent bar 34 can be affixed to the frame 20 and the track 32 connected to the sash 10. As seen in Figures 2, 3, 4 and 6, the four bar hinge assembly 30 includes a first link 31, a second link 33 and a third link 37, wherein the first and second links are pivotally connected to the track 32 and the vent bar 35, and the third link is pivotally connected to the track and second link. The vent bar 34 includes a plurality of apertures 35, for receiving a corresponding threaded fastener for affixing the vent bar 34, and hence hinge assembly 30, to the sash 10. The vent bar 34 includes fastening apertures 37 for engaging a shim assembly 40. These fastening apertures 37 and the apertures 35 in the vent bar 34 can be any of a variety of configurations. For example, the apertures 35, 37 can be circular, faceted, curvilinear or obround. It has been found advantageous to employ a circular aperture and a spaced obround aperture 35 in the vent bar 34. With respect to the fastening aperture 37, it has been found satisfactory to employ circular apertures for receiving both the circular and obround engaging tabs.

Amendments to the claims

1. (Currently amended) A shim assembly for engaging a hinge having a vent bar, the vent bar including a first and a spaced apart second aperture, the shim assembly comprising:

(a) a four bar hinge assembly including a vent bar, a first link, a second link, a third link and a track, the vent bar including a first aperture and a spaced apart second aperture; and

(b) an elongate shim body having a first projecting tab sized to be received within the first aperture of the vent bar and a spaced apart second projecting tab sized to be received within the second aperture of the vent bar.

2. (Original) The shim assembly of Claim 1, wherein the first projecting tab has a circular cross section and is sized to be slidably received within the first aperture.

3. (Original) The shim assembly of Claim 1, wherein the second projecting tab has a non circular cross section and is sized to be received within the second aperture.

4. (Original) The shim assembly of Claim 4, wherein the cross section of the second projecting tab is one of obround, oval and oblong.

5. (Original) The shim assembly of Claim 4, wherein the second aperture has a circular cross section.

6. (Original) The shim assembly of Claim 5, wherein the cross section of the second projecting tab is sized to be received in the circular cross section of the second aperture.

7. (Currently amended) The shim assembly of Claim 2, wherein the first and the second ~~aperture~~ apertures have a circular cross section and one of the first and the second projecting tabs forms an interference fit in one of the corresponding first and second apertures.

8. (Currently amended) A shim ~~for a hinge assembly having a given stack height and a vent bar having an aperture, the shim~~ comprising:

- (a) a four bar hinge assembly including a vent bar having an aperture, a first link, a second link, a third link and a track;
- (b) an elongate one-piece shim body having a thickness; and
- (c) ~~[[b)]]~~ at least ~~[[one]]~~ a first projecting tab integrally formed with the shim body, the first projecting tab sized to be at least partially received within the aperture to releasably connect the shim body to the vent bar.

9. (Original) The shim of Claim 8, further comprising a second projecting tab integrally formed with the shim body.

10. (Currently amended) The shim of Claim 9 ~~[[8]]~~, wherein the first projecting tab has a circular cross section and the second projecting tab has a non circular cross section.

11. (Currently amended) The shim of Claim 8, wherein the first projecting tab extends from a first side of the shim body and the shim body includes a recess at a corresponding location on a second side.

12. (Original) The shim of Claim 8, wherein the aperture in the vent bar has a circular cross section and is sized to receive a projecting tab having a non circular cross section.

13. (Currently amended) A configurable hinge system for mounting between a window sash and a frame, comprising:

- (a) a hinge assembly having a first stack height and including a vent bar for securing to the window sash; and
- (b) a shim non-destructively, removably connected to the vent bar ~~without requiring tools~~.

14. (Original) The configurable hinge system of Claim 13, wherein the shim includes a projecting tab and the vent bar includes a corresponding aperture, the tab and the aperture forming an interference fit.

15. (Original) The configurable hinge system of Claim 13, wherein the shim includes a projecting tab and the vent bar includes a corresponding aperture, the tab and the aperture are sized to permit non destructive separation.

16. (Currently amended) A method of converting a four bar hinge assembly of a first stack height to have a greater second stack height, the method comprising:

- (a) engaging a projecting tab on a shim of a predetermined thickness, the projecting tab of a first cross section, to an aperture in the four bar hinge assembly, the aperture having a ~~different~~ non similar cross section to provide the second stack height of the hinge assembly.

17. (Currently amended) The method of Claim 16, wherein the four bar hinge assembly includes a vent bar, a first link, a second link, a third link and a track, the first link and the third link connected to the each of the vent bar and the track, and the third link connected to the

track and the second link ~~further comprising connecting the shim to a vent bar.~~

18. (Currently amended) The method of Claim 16, further comprising connecting the shim to a vent bar of ~~[[a]]~~ the four-bar hinge assembly.

19. (Original) The method of Claim 17, further comprising engaging a non circular projecting tab on the shim with a circular aperture in the vent bar.